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METHODS FOR THE DETECTION, QUANTIFICATION AND DIFFERENTIATION OF  
INFECTIOUS VERSUS NON-INFECTIOUS PATHOGENS IN A SAMPLE

ABSTRACT

Methods are disclosed that permit pathogenic agent detection and differentiation between infectious and non-infectious forms. Specifically, the present invention provides for pathogenic agent detection using nucleic acid amplification and detection techniques. Moreover, these nucleic acid amplification and detection techniques permit infectious pathogens to be distinguished from non-infectious forms. Also disclosed is a method used to detect and distinguishes between infectious and non-infectious pathogens in biological products and pharmaceutical preparations.